

## **FERC RELICENSING OF THE OROVILLE FACILITY CULTURAL RESOURCES WORK GROUP MAY 2002 UPDATE**

The last Cultural Resources Work Group (CRWG) meeting was held at Berry Creek Rancheria on March 19, 2002. At that meeting, it was agreed that summaries of activities conducted during April and May would be distributed to the CRWG in monthly updates in lieu of holding a regular monthly meeting. This document provides that summary and fulfills the obligations of Action Item #C41, as identified in the meeting notes posted for the March CRWG meeting.

The next CRWG meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2002 at Mooretown Rancheria.

### **Study Plan C-1 Update**

The archaeological survey portion of Study Plan C-1 officially began on Monday, May 6, 2002. Throughout the month of May, two crews (each consisting of five professional archaeologists and three Maidu trainees) spent most of the time in the Craig Recreation Area re-recording archaeological sites that had been previously identified. Over 40 sites have been recorded during this effort. In addition, nearly 20 historic features were newly recorded in the area.

During the last few days of the month, the crews shifted their focus to surveying 30% sample transects in the Oroville Wildlife Area. The ethnographic studies team (which includes two Maidu trainees) also began background research during the last weeks of May.

Historic research has been focussed on gathering information that will assist in the field inventory. All known historic maps of the area have been retrieved and scanned into the GIS system to be used as layers superimposed over the current map. The historic archaeologists will be able to use this information to identify site-specific areas for investigation.

### **Maidu Advisory Council Update**

The Maidu Advisory Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2002 was cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled for June.

### **DWR and Tribal Meeting**

An introductory "meet and greet" meeting was held on May 29 between the Department of Water Resources' Director Thomas Hannigan and the Tribal Council leaders from the four federally recognized Tribes involved with the Oroville Facilities FERC relicensing program. The meeting was relaxed and the agenda included general introductions, a brief overview of the Alternative Licensing Process, a description of the activities and objectives of the Tribal Legacy Coordinators and the Maidu Advisory Council, an update on the status of the cultural resources studies, and an open discussion session. Primary concerns of the Tribal members included confidentiality of data, protection and management of ancestral Maidu archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties, and the alternatives available to them should they not agree with the final management/protection program developed for the project.